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ACTION EUR-00

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-08 L-03 PA-01 USIE-00 SP-02
PRS-01 /027 W

-----207210 301958Z /53

R 300904Z JAN 85
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6724
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 01282

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM, UR, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH EVALUATION OF UKRAINIAN MATERIAL ON
WALLENBERG

REFS: A) 84 MOSCOW 15698, B) 84 MOSCOW 15012

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE SWEDES HAVE EVALUATED THE UKRAINIAN
SOURCE MATERIALS ON RAOUL WALLENBERG THAT WE PASSED TO
THEIR EMBASSY HERE ON DECEMBER 10, AND HAVE COME TO THE
CONCLUSION THAT THESE CONTAIN LITTLE IF ANY SIGNIFICANT
NEW INFORMATION ON THE CASE. THE BOGDANAS ACCOUNT IS
INDEED NEW, BUT THE SWEDES ARE NOT INCLINED TO ATTACH
MUCH WEIGHT TO IT SINCE IT CONFLICTS WITH MORE CREDIBLE
EVIDENCE. VOROBAY'S TESTIMONY HAS BEEN MORE FULLY
REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, AND THE SWEDES HAVE ONLY LIMITED
INTEREST IN WALLENBERG'S EXACT WHEREABOUTS PRIOR TO HIS
ARREST AND IN THE POSSIBILITY THAT BREZHNEV WAS PERSONALLY
INVOLVED IN THIS. THE SWEDISH EMBASSY HERE SEES SOME
POSSIBLE MERIT IN CHECKING FURTHER INTO THE BOGDANAS

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ACCOUNT. END SUMMARY.

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(X) RELEASE	(X) DECLASSIFY	MIR Cases Only:	
() EXCISE	() DECLASSIFY	EO Citations:	
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() DELETE Non-Responsive Info			
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3. SWEDISH EMBASSY MINISTER NILSSON AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR BERTELMAN HAVE PROVIDED US WITH STOCKHOLM'S EVALUATION OF THE TERELYA LETTER ON RAOUL WALLENBERG INCORPORATED IN A RECENT ISSUE OF THE SAMIZDAT PUBLICATION "CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE UKRAINE" (REFTELS). IN BRIEF, AFTER THOROUGHLY CROSS-CHECKING THE NAMES AND EVENTS THAT TERELYA MENTIONS, THE SWEDES HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT HE OFFERS NO SIGNIFICANT NEW EVIDENCE ON WALLENBERG'S PROBABLE FATE. NILSSON AND BERTELMAN NOTED THAT SOME ELEMENTS OF THE TERELYA ACCOUNT CORROBORATE PREVIOUSLY-REPORTED SIGHTINGS AND ENCOUNTERS, ALTHOUGH THEY RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THESE MIGHT NOT REPRESENT FRESH EVIDENCE BUT RATHER INFORMATION FROM THE SAME ORIGINAL WITNESSES PASSED THROUGH DIFFERENT CONTACTS, PERHAPS SECOND- OR THIRD-HAND. OTHER ASPECTS OF TERELYA'S TESTIMONY SEEM TO CONFLICT WITH WELL-FOUNDED ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE CASE OR WITH MORE CREDIBLE EVIDENCE DERIVED FROM A NUMBER OF WITNESSES.

4. COMMENTING IN MORE DETAIL ON THE CONTENTS OF THE TERELYA LETTER, NILSSON SAID THAT THE POLE VOROBAY HAS FIGURED IN SEVERAL PREVIOUS ACCOUNTS AND THAT THE INFORMATION TERELYA REPORTS HIM AS PASSING IS CONSISTENT WITH THESE. HOWEVER, THE INFORMATION IS NOT NEW: IT HAS LONG BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT WALLENBERG'S DRIVER LANGFELDER WAS IMPRISONED IN THE SOVIET UNION. CURIOUSLY, NILSSON NOTED, VOROBAY APPARENTLY DID NOT CLAIM IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH TERELYA THAT HE MET WALLENBERG IN VLADIMIR PRISON IN 1960, AN ENCOUNTER THAT FIGURES IN OTHER ACCOUNTS.

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5. SWEDISH FILES ON WALLENBERG CONTAIN NO PREVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE LITHUANIAN BOGDANAS. UPON EXAMINATION, HOWEVER, HIS TESTIMONY APPEARS TO THE SWEDES TO BE LESS THAN PERSUASIVE. IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHILE A NUMBER OF SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT SWEDISH CITIZENS WERE AMONG THOSE INCARCERATED IN THE SPECIAL FOREIGNERS PRISON IN NORIL'SK, IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT THESE WERE IN FACT MOSTLY ESTONIANS WHO SPOKE SWEDISH. NILSSON NOTED THAT A RECORD EXISTS OF A NORIL'SK PRISONER BY THE NAME OF ANDERSON WHO CLAIMED TO BE A SWEDISH DIPLOMAT, AND

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HE SPECULATED THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE PERSON BOGDANAS HAD MET. THE SWEDES HAVE FURTHER CAUSE TO DOUBT BOGDANAS' ACCOUNT, WHICH SEEMS TO PLACE WALLENBERG AT NORIL'SK FROM 1945 TO 1953, SINCE THEY HAVE THE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT AFTER JULY 1947 WALLENBERG WAS NEVER KEPT IN AN OPEN CAMP WHERE HE COULD HAVE EXTENSIVE CONTACT WITH FELLOW PRISONERS. THE SOVIET CLAIM IS THAT WALLENBERG DIED IN JULY 1947, AND THE SWEDES ASSUME THAT AFTER THIS DATE STEPS WERE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE THE FEWEST POSSIBLE WITNESSES OF HIS CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT. FINALLY, NILSSON NOTED, BOGDANAS' CLAIM THAT WALLENBERG AND HE WERE IMPRISONED TOGETHER IN KAZAN' FROM 1953 TO 1962 CONFLICTS WITH NUMEROUS OTHER ACCOUNTS AS TO WALLENBERG'S WHEREABOUTS IN THE 1950'S. THE MOST CREDIBLE EVIDENCE IS THAT HE WAS IN VLADIMIR PRISON DURING THAT TIME. BOGDANAS' IS THE FIRST MENTION OF KAZAN' THAT THE SWEDES HAVE SEEN IN CONNECTION WITH WALLENBERG.

6. THE SWEDES HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD OF WALLENBERG'S MISSED APPOINTMENT WITH ONE ANNA MAYORENKO IN BUDAPEST ON JANUARY 14, 1945. HOWEVER THIS INFORMATION IS OF

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LIMITED INTEREST TO STOCKHOLM SINCE THE APPOINTMENT
PRECEDED THE KNOWN DATE OF WALLENBERG'S ARREST. LIKEWISE,
REPORTS THAT BREZHNEV MIGHT HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY INVOLVED
IN THE ARREST HAD LITTLE VALUE INsofar AS DETERMINING
WALLENBERG'S FATE IS CONCERNED. NILSSON RECALLED THAT
IN AUGUST 1981 A FORMER SOVIET OFFICER BY THE NAME OF
YAAKOV MENAKER HAD MADE SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS ABOUT
BREZHNEV'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE ARREST, AND HE NOTED THAT
THESE HAD BEEN VIEWED WITH SKEPTICISM. THE SWEDES
HAD FOUND NOTHING IN THE AVAILABLE DOCUMENTATION THAT
WOULD SUGGEST THAT BREZHNEV PLAYED ANY ROLE WHATSOEVER
IN HUNGARY IN JANUARY 1945.

7. IN CONCLUDING,
ACTION OFFICER ON THE WALLENBERG CASE IN THE SWEDISH MFA.
SOME MERIT IN PURSUING THE BOGDANAS TESTIMONY FURTHER,
SPECIFICALLY TO TRY TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THERE WAS ANY
BASIS AT ALL TO THE CLAIM THAT WALLENBERG MIGHT HAVE
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BEEN IMPRISONED IN KAZAN'. EMBOFFS EXPRESSED READINESS
TO ASSIST IN ANY SUCH EFFORT, BUT NOTED IT WOULD BE

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VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN ANY FURTHER INFORMATION FROM BOGDANAS.

8. NILSSON SAID THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN FRANKFURT HAD MADE REFERENCE TO THE TERELYA LETTER ON WALLENBERG IN A RECENT PUBLICATION, INDICATING THAT THEY HAVE A COPY OF THE RELEVANT ISSUE OF THE "CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UKRAINE". HE ALSO NOTED THAT AN ARTICLE IN THE LONDON "TIMES" FOR JANUARY 12 MENTIONS THAT THE FIRST EIGHT ISSUES OF THE CHRONICLE HAVE REACHED THE WEST RECENTLY. THE TERELYA LETTER ON WALLENBERG IS IN ISSUE NO. 8.
HARTMAN

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